

Genetics Dept., U. of Wis.  
February 11, 1953

Dear Lederbergs,

Things in the lab continue to proceed as usual. All the dishwashers have a fine schedule; there are ~~four~~ of them now, and this is at present quite sufficient. My own class eats a tremendous hole out of two days a week, but begins to look as if it might be very interesting. There were many more students than the laboratory capacity, so I was lucky to get in.

No remodeling has been begun yet, and also the refrigerating unit has not yet been delivered, although they were in such a rush about it when I wrote you earlier. Crow has moved upstairs now, and I again can smell odors that I thought were to be a thing of the past. Occasional *Drosophila* flit around in our labs already, some wild type and some second chromosome stock.

There is quite a lot of political stir about town right now, especially in regard to the governor's cuts in the University budget. The cuts affect faculty salary increases and research budgets., and I do not know what all else, as it is almost impossible to obtain an objective report. The governor gave the first in a series of fireside-chat type talks last Sunday, discussing this budget matter, and the next day the Cap Times had a very different story, and both parties were pretty passionate. The governor said in his speech that if he regarded the budget as inadequate he would do everything necessary-- even to increasing taxes-- to secure an adequate amount. But then he has proposed to increase the fees by a hundred dollars instead, and the ~~new~~ budget remains cut. Another matter before the present legislature is a reapportionment bill, which would base representation on area rather than population. I take a very dim view of Wisconsin politics! Apparently these matters will not be voted upon for a spell-- the budget, not until April.

Has Betty Schotten sent on urgent campus mail, if any? I have simply been bringing all that she puts in the box up, and putting it on your shelf. I told her to check through all of it.\*

The S.D.E. induction went off very informally. All the officers, incoming and outgoing, stood up at the front of the room in a straggly line, and then the old officers presented the new ones with the notebooks pertinent to their office. The president's book weighs about four pounds, I should judge, so I guess there will be a lot of work ahead. There was a speaker, Dr. Deutsch, who showed slides, badly photographed, but interesting, and talked about his travels in South America and Sweden. Does this club ever sponsor any lectures on scientific subjects?

There is no other particular news I can think of at the moment. I hope you both have a pleasant journey home. And please give my kindest regards to the Bloomington people.

Sincerely,

Helm

\* I just learned she isn't forwarding any more mail after this noon anyway, so this is a useless question.